CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

MAY 3, 1993

VOL. XV
No. 18

DEMOS HOLD 31st A.D. ; GOP WINS 16th S.D. ; WHILE THOMPSON HOLDS LEAD OVER HANDLEY IN 2nd S.D.

Editor's note: No major surprises in this first major round of ***LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL ELECTIONS,*** held April 27th. Here is CALPEEK's analysis of the campaigns in the 31st A.D., 16th S.D. & the 2nd S.D...

• **31st A.D.** - As anticipated, voters have elected Cruz Bustamante(D) to replace his former boss, Bruce Bronzan, in the State Assembly. Bustamante thus becomes the 1st Hispanic from the **Central Valley** in the CA Legislature. He defeated Fresno Co. Sup. Doug Vagim by a 57.3% to 42.7% margin...

• **16th S.D.** - Former State Assemblyman Phil Wyman(R) is now State Sen. Phil Wyman, as he defeated current Demo Assemblyman Jim Costa of Hanford by about 5,200 votes --- 53% to 47%. A nice win for GOP consultant Steve Presson of Sacto. Many CALPEEK sources had serious doubts about a Demo taking this seat away from the GOP because it has only a 48% Demo vs. 40% GOP registration base. And anytime GOP registration is 40% or above, the district leans Republican. In a regular election between Costa and Wyman, with a higher turnout than 25%, Costa might have had a shot. But in a special, where Demos have a tough time getting *their* voters to the polls, Costa was in trouble despite having a huge advantage over Wyman in **money**. But it was a gamble that Costa had to take, because had Wyman not won the primary, a more moderate Republican, such as Bakersfield Councilman Kevin McDermott, might have been able to hold the seat in 1994, when the 16th S.D. becomes a 65% Demo registration district. Can Wyman hold this seat in 1994? CALPEEK sources aren't even 100% sure that he'll seek reelection. If he does, it will cost Wyman and the Senate GOP Leadership a small fortune to hold the 16th S.D. --- around $1 million...

• **2nd S.D.** - This special between Demo State Sen. Mike Thompson and GOPer Margie Handley of Willits is still very close, with Thompson holding a slight lead as CALPEEK went to press. Thompson had 47.59% to 46.91% for Handley --- 671 votes, with absentee ballots from several counties not yet counted. That could take anywhere from several days to several weeks. P&F candidate Phil Baldwin, who was endorsed by the Green Party, got 5.5% of the vote. Demos think Thompson should hold on, but aren't celebrating yet. Handley had an extensive absentee voter program (3 mailers) and ***outspent*** Thompson in the runoff. In order for Handley to win, she'd need about 75% of the uncounted AV ballots to overtake Thompson. Handley had 51% of the AV votes in the early count, with Thompson at 42%. Stay tuned...

L.A. ELECTION: CALPEEK'S WINNERS & LOSERS.

Editor's note: As is the custom of CALPEEK after each election, here is one of your favorite columns, CALPEEK's **Winners & Losers** from the just concluded L.A. Municipal Primary...

• **Big Primary Winner** - Overall, CALPEEK gives the award to the campaign of Richard Riordan. Consultant Clint Reilly and manager Jadine Nielsen took Riordan from zero to first place, ahead of the longtime frontrunner, Councilman Mike Woo. Also credit Reilly et al with the **Best Campaign Theme** -- "Tough Enough To Turn L.A. Around."...

• **Longest Night Award** - Councilman Nate Holden not only finished a distant 7th in the battle to replace Tom Bradley as mayor, but in his own 10th Council District, he finished **3rd** behind arch-rival Mike Woo and attorney Stan Sanders. But Holden did produce the **Best Hit** against Woo. In a mailer, Holden called Woo a "draft dodger," --- among other things...

{Continued Next Page}

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• **Best TV Spots** - D.C.-based consultants Doak & Shrum are the winners for the TV ads they produced for former Deputy Mayor Linda Griego...

• **Most Disappointing Campaign** - Assemblyman Richard Katz wins the prize, with **no** competition. Katz had more promise and insiders thought he would have made the best mayor, but his campaign was very late getting off the ground; the strategy was flawed (some say there was no strategy); and the TV just didn't work (and some would say that's being kind)...

• **MIA Award** - To consultant James Carville. If he was really working for Katz, where was he???

• **Hot Button Issue Award** - Candidate Tom Houston win for his attacks on "illegal immigrants" who he claimed were bankrupting county and city health, public safety & educational services. With this issue and a bigger warchest, Houston might have gotten more than 3,200 votes...

• **Best & Brightest New Candidates** - Attorney Stan Sanders and ex Deputy Mayor Linda Griego...

• **Biased Media Award** - L.A. Times wins this award for its pro-Woo coverage. This opinion is shared by most of the other candidates in the race and by many political observers...

• **Best Media Coverage** - Hands down winner: Century Cable TV...

• **Prosecutor Who Wouldn't Award** - Yes, L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn is the undisputed winner here. The L.A. Times wouldn't even endorse him, calling his tenure as city attorney, "oft-lackluster." As a reward for winning reelection, CALPEEK sentences Mr. Hahn to a live, 1-to-1 inquisition by political analyst Pat Caddell on Century Cable's "Week In Review."...

• **Bad Judgment Award** - To the entire L.A. City Council for putting Measure #1 (add 1,000 more cops by hiking the property tax) on the ballot **without** the necessary campaign warchest to give it some kind of clout. The second mistake was putting Councilman Marvin Braude in charge...

• **All Flash, No Show Council Campaign** - Candidate Janice Hahn is the winner of this award for her poor showing in the 15th district. The Hahn name wasn't magic in this primary...

• **Giant Killer Award** - Hands down winner is 15th Council District candidate Rudy Svorinich, who not only finished ahead of Ms. Hahn, but also ahead of L.A. School Bd. member Warren Furutani. He's now in a tough runoff with incumbent Joan Flores. Congrats to consultant Tom Shortridge of Bear Republic Political Services, who guided Rudy's campaign...

• **Most Aggressive Council Campaign** - Challenger Laura Chick in the 3rd District. Not only did she raise $175,000, but she got lots of endorsements from local groups and organizations. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

• **CA Demo Party Backs Woo** - It didn't take long for the CA Demo Party to endorse L.A. Councilman Mike Woo in his battle with businessman Richard Riordan. The election was April 20th and CDP Chair Bill Press announced the party's support on April 23rd. The endorsement is probably an **overall plus**, because the city has a very large Demo voter registration edge. Yet if you look at the breakdown of how voters cast ballots on election day, many Demos were in Riordan's corner, especially on the Westside where Riordan's tough stand on crime was very popular. So, yes, many L.A. Demos are **angered** at the CDP for backing Woo, and thus the endorsement could backfire. On the other hand, it was Riordan, *not Woo*, who touched off the partisanship issue with his direct mail appeal to GOP voters --- using Ronald Reagan and Jack Kemp, among others. Still, Calif. has a very long tradition of having nonpartisan races for local office and the CA Constitution prohibits political parties from endorsing in nonpartisan races. Question: has the CDP opened a bag of worms that could cost the party a ton of money in legal bills???

• **Hill & Nolan Indicted** - For the last two weeks there have been rumors that the U.S. Attorney in Sacto was about to indict State Sen. Frank Hill(R-Whittier) and Assemblyman Pat Nolan(R-Glendale) on charges of political corruption, all stemming from the 1988 under-

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cover FBI sting operation. So when the actual indictment occurred Apr. 27, it wasn't exactly a big shock to insiders. Both Hill and Nolan say they are innocent. But what was surprising, however, was the indictment of Terry Frost, a former Demo State senate staffer-turned lobbyist. He's accused of conspiring with Hill and Nolan. **Question**: why did it take so long to bring these indictments, when the Justice Dept. supposedly has Nolan on videotape accepting two checks for $5,000 --- plus cooperation from Nolan's former aide, Karin Watson, who pled guilty to extorting money from FBI agents??? The explanations offered so far seem very limp...

• **Patterson Elected Fresno Mayor** - No shock here. Religious broadcasting executive Jim Patterson was elected Mayor of Fresno over Councilman Brian Setencich on Apr. 27. Patterson was elected with 55% of the vote...

• **High Speed Rail Alive & Well** - Not only is new Pres. Bill Clinton a big fan of high speed rail, but so is CA Gov. Pete Wilson, who on Mar. 31st signed an executive order to establish a high speed rail task force, with new BT&H Sec. Tom Sayles as chair. And remember the Calif.-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission? It's alive too and back on track, although they need to win passage of AB 211 to keep the commission in business. AB 211 won a 61-3 vote in the Assembly and is now awaiting action in the State Senate. The commission itself doesn't cost CA taxpayers a cent, but it does cost money to send a bill through the legislature, which is very ironic. For those who have forgotten, the CA/NV SSTC still has high hopes of private enterprise building the rail link between So. Calif. and Las Vegas. The original plan, with Bechtel Corp. as one of the chief financial backers, got derailed because of the recession and the Gulf War. But sources indicate that the $5 billion project still has interest from the French and Germans. A new RFP should be out in two months...

• **No Surprises On Bergeson Vote** - Political insiders were not surprised last week when State Sen. Marian Bergeson(R-Newport Beach) fell 7 votes short of the 41 needed in the State Assembly to win confirmation as Supt. of Public Instruction . Some GOP Assemblymembers, such as Richard Mountjoy, attempted to blame the Bergeson defeat on "partisan politics," but Demos were not having any of that, citing Bergeson's support for Gov. Wilson's budget cuts on education of last year as one of the key reasons they opposed her confirmation. Three Demos, Phil Isenberg, Jim Costa & Tom Umberg broke ranks to support Bergeson and Demo Assemblymembers Terry Friedman, Steve Peace, John Vasconcellos & Richard Katz abstained. Vasco's floor speech praising his friend Marian Bergeson, yet also raising questions about some of her previous stands and votes, was worth hearing...

• **Andal Up for Equalization Post ??** - CALPEEK sources say GOP Assemblyman Dean Andal of Stockton is on Gov. Wilson's short list to fill a vacancy on the State Board of Equalization --- the post once held by Bill Bennett(D). Sources say Andal should have fewer problems in winning State Assembly confirmation than Marian Bergeson because Assembly Demos would love one more shot at winning Andal's 17th A.D. seat, which has a heavy Demo voter registration...

• **5th A.D. Correction & Update** - GOP fundraisers Lynn Bryan and Keith Coplen have not been **hired** to work on Lou Barnett's campaign in the upcoming May 25 special to replace the late B.T. Collins. But both are longtime friends and they are *helping* Barnett. As for Joyce Valdez, she's busy working for Gov. Pete Wilson and for L.A. Councilwoman Joan Flores --- and like the others, has not been hired to work for Barnett. FYI: CALPEEK sources believe that CCPOA, a big supporter of Collins in past elections, will remain **neutral** in the upcoming primary...

• **Compton Mayor's Race** - Forgot to mention in last week's CALPEEK that Compton Councilmembers Omar Bradley and Patricia Moore will face each other in a June 1 runoff election to succeed Walter Tucker III as mayor of Compton. Bradley finished 1st with 35% and Moore was 2nd with 26%. In 3rd place was Tucker's brother, Kenneth, who got 25%...

• **Dirty Politics** - The $24.95 board game invented by 3 San Diego friends is played every Friday night on Michael Reagan's syndicated talk radio show. The game's full name is "Dirty Politics: A Game So Rotten, Vile and Corrupt That Until Now, Only Politicians Would Play It." The inventors claim to have sold 50,000 copies and they say they want to present "Dirty

{Continued Next Page}

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Politics" to the new team at the White House, as well as to the crew on Capitol Hill. For info about "Dirty Politics," (619)669-0083...

• **Latest CA Voter Registration Figures** - New figures released by the CA Sec. of State's office shows there are 14,643,962 registered voters as of 2/93. Demos account for 49.09% with 7,188,703, while GOP registration is at 37.07% with 5,428,005 voters. AIP has 243,059 voters (1.66%); Green Party has 93,497 or .64%; the Libertarian Party has 68,520 or .47%; Peace & Freedom Party has 66,578 or .45%; miscell./non-qualified parties account for .34% or 50,411 voters; and decline-to-state accounts for 10.28% or 1,505,189 voters. Stay tuned...

SPRING 1993: CALPEEK'S ELECTION CALENDAR

Editor's note: Here's a short election calendar to help you keep track of all the specials, runoffs and other elections...

• **May 4** - San Bernardino City mayor's runoff...

• **May 25** - 5th A.D. Legislative special...

• **June 1** - Compton mayor's runoff...

• **June 8** - L.A. Muni runoff; San Mateo Co. Sheriff's special election; 17th C.D. runoff; card club elections in West Hollywood, Cypress, Stanton & Pico Rivera; and the San Mateo Co. Bd. of Supes special...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

• Susan Kennedy has returned to work as executive director of the CA Democratic Party. Kennedy left her job at the end of last year to go to work for State Treas. Kathleen Brown (as Brown's political director). And add Debora H. Taylor to the CDP as finance director. They join Bob Mulholland, who remains aboard as CDP political director...

• Michael Weintraub's L.A.-based GOP direct mail fundraising firm of W.S. Direct has been hired by the CA Assembly Republican Leadership Fund...

• The Sacto-based GOP campaign consulting firm of Huckaby Rodriguez Gilliard Inc. has folded. **Carlos Rodriguez** has been named as the new general manager of the Green Rock Quarries in Oroville, while **Gary Huckaby** is working from his home. **David Gilliard** will continue working as a campaign consultant at the same address and phone as the old firm...

• Sacto-based Zerbe Political Consulting has opened an office in the L.A. area at 818 12th Street, Ste. 5, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Phone is (310)394-4141. The Sacto office is at 6929 Lindero Lane, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683. (916)354-2500...

• FPPC member and L.A. attorney Cynthia McClain-Hill has joined First Boston's public finance dept and will be HQed in L.A. at 333 S. Grand Ave., Ste. 2200, L.A. 90071 - (213)253-2005...

• Calif. based campaign management firms winning **Telly Awards** for the 1992 campaign cycle include Cavalier & Associates (for their NO on 161 TV ad); Wayne Johnson & Associates (for their congressional campaign on behalf of GOPer H.L. Richardson); and 3 Tellys for Paul Kinney Productions (two awards for YES on 163; and an award for a 10-minute video for S.F. Mayor Frank Jordan)...

• L.A. Co. Sheriff Sherman Block has promoted Jerry L. Harper to the rank of Undersheriff --- the #2 job in the department. Harper has been with the Sheriff's dept. since 1962, and was an assistant sheriff prior to this promotion. Named as Asst. Sheriff is Robert J. Ciulik, a 32-year vet of the dept...

• S.F. Mayor Frank Jordan's new press secretary is Noah Griffin, who had been the PIO for S.F. City College. Griffin also writes a column for the S.F. Chronicle and will continue to do a radio show on KFRC-FM. Griffin comes aboard just as Asst. Press Secretary Stacy Walters departs after 16 months...

• L.A.-based Pacific/West Communications Group has signed up the So. Calif. Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) as a new client...

• Tony Fazio's Winning Directions has moved to a new location at 1366 San Mateo Ave., So. San Francisco, CA 94080. New phone (415)875-4000...

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